

The Forest Plan Revision process



Phase I: Assessment

Where We Have Been

Early Engagement and Outreach

Forest Service conducts workshops and meetings with local, state and tribal governments, outfitter guides, youth, and users to understand how to use the Forest and how the Forest has changed.

The Assessment



Forest Service writes The Assessment on the current state of the Forest based on results of environmental studies and community outreach.

Need to Change



Forest Service identifies items from the current Chugach Forest Plan that need to change and drafts a brief summary document.

Draft Forest Plan



Forest Service develops plan components to reflect the items that need to change in the current Chugach Forest Plan.

Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Forest Plan

The NOI initiates the NEPA process for revising the Chugach Forest Plan.

Scoping

Forest Service engages the public and targeted stakeholders to determine what, if any, issues or concerns with the Draft Chugach Forest Plan need to be addressed.

Draft Alternatives

Based on what is learned from Scoping, the Forest Service will draft alternative versions of the Forest Plan to respond to public comment. There might be only two alternatives: the Draft Chugach Forest Plan and a “no action” alternative that keeps the 2002 Plan.

Analyze Effects of Alternatives

Forest Service analyzes the environmental impact and effects of forest plan component alternatives. This includes effects in areas proposed for wilderness and other designations.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



This document summarizes the impacts of the Chugach Forest Plan. The public comments on the analysis presented in the EIS. Forest Service analyzes the public comments and revises the Chugach Forest Plan alternatives using the public comments.

Final EIS



This document shares the alternatives that were considered during the process, responding to all public comments and establishes the environmentally “preferred alternative.”

Final Forest Plan



Using the Draft EIS and public comments, Forest Service releases the Final Chugach Forest Plan.

Objection Period

To qualify as an objector, the person(s) or entity must have submitted substantive comments during one of the previous comment periods.

Resolve Objections

When the Objection Period ends, Forest Service has up to 90 days to review and resolve all of the legitimate objections.

Record of Decision (ROD)

The ROD is issued and the Final Chugach Forest Plan is approved and implementation can begin.

Implement and Monitor

- Focus groups
- Participatory mapping

“What do you like about the Chugach?
Where do you go?”

- Community meetings
- Letters from the public and stakeholder groups

“How has the Forest environment
changed over the past ten to 15 years?
How has use changed?
How can we keep you involved?”

- Community meetings

“Where do you use the Forest?”

- 60 day formal public comment
period
to respond to draft revised forest
plan

“After a first read of the Forest Plan,
what are preliminary thoughts,
questions, concerns?”

- Targeted stakeholder outreach

- 90 day public comment period
- Community meetings
- Targeted stakeholder outreach

- 60 day objection period

Phase II: Plan Revision

Where We Are Going

NEPA Process

Phase III: Monitoring